

Appendix 1

Northwest League Umpires – 1974

#	Name	Northwest League Service	Other Leagues' Service
1.	Larry Dotson	1974-1975	
2.	Leroy E Dreke	1973-1975	Replacement umpire during the Major League Umpires strike April 4, 1979 to April 12, 1979
3.	Gregory Stuart Foutz	1974-1975	
4.	Marty Iturbe	1974-1975	
5.	Donn James	1973-1974	California League 1975
6.	Gary Ross Lieberman	1972, 1974-1976	California League 1972-73
7.	Bob Messina	1974-1975	
8.	David Ravare	1974-1975	California League 1976-77
			Texas League 1978
			Pacific Coast League 1979-81
9.	Harry Schrieber *	1963-1965, 1967-1968, 1974	Pacific Coast league 1969-72
10.	Phil Simmons	1974-1975	
11.	Donald Slusher	1973-1975	California League 1976
			Texas League 1977-78
			Pacific Coast League 1979-80

* It is not entirely clear if it was the same Harry Schrieber umpiring for both the NWL and PCL.

Even today, Umpires in the Minor Leagues have wages that are extremely low. This lack of parity becomes apparent when you look at Umpire wages in relation both to the rest of society and to the amount of travel that is required. In the Northwest league the two-man umpire crews drive from one series to the next. The Umpires have to pay for accommodation out of their wages. The Umpire who owns a car and drives receives about 44 cents a mile.

In 1970 when I umpired the Provincial League in the Province of Quebec I was paid \$500.00 in Canadian dollars which were worth about 5 cents more than US currency. Baseball players in the Northwest League playing for the New Westminster Frasers made \$300.00 and, with regard to the Portland Mavericks, five of their players made \$400

(veterans' wages) and the rest \$300.00. The Umpires would have been paid about \$300.00 per month.

Advancement up the Umpire ladder was somewhat whimsical. Although the Umpires would have supervisors look at their work in the Northwest League about 3 times during the season, much of their upward mobility depended on reports by the Managers and General Managers. And always the two Umpires in the crew were competing against each other in order to move up. There was no support system with which these young Umpires could rely.

During the 1960-70's about 50% of Umpires quit during the season and about 75% quit at season end. The Umpires, like the ballplayers, were grasping at a dream that the Major League was attainable. It is worth noting that, while only 2 in 30 of the first year ballplayers signed in a given year will make it to the Major Leagues, the ratio for Umpires is 1 in 300. The latter statistic arises because Umpires in the Major Leagues can last 20-35 years, which is longer than a ballplayer; as well there are a lot less major League Umpire slots.

Umpires were despised back in those two decades and not much has changed since, except that the ejection rate in the low Minor Leagues is a great deal less. For a young Umpire in his first or second year there are no coaches in the same way that ballplayers have. Nor are there the videos of the games available to the young Umpires.

Life for these Umpires is no paradise: they sometimes drive all night, up to 12-13 hours on the road, arrive at the hotel/motel, have a quick nap and then head to the ballpark. After the game to conserve money they hope that the clubbie will have gotten them some left-overs such hot dogs, fries and, if they are lucky, a hamburger. Money is always an issue since they have not received a bonus to sign. In essence, these officials are like the free agent Minor League or low draft choice who has to make do on a meager income, paying lodging and food -- thus the cheaper the better.